

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 13-16, 18-28, and 32-54 are allowable because the instant application is directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention described in patent number US 7,307,623 (Enomoto) and patent number US 5,327,163 (Hashimoto). The improvement comprises *applying the first specific processing rule of the first graphical object as a function of a relative position between the first touch position and the first object position; applying the second specific processing rule of the second graphical object as a function of a relative position between the second touch position and the second object position; and modifying at least one of the first graphical object or the first object position based on a result of said applying the first specific processing rule; and modifying at least one of the second graphical object or the second object position based on a result of said applying the second specific processing rule.* This patentable distinction is included in independent claims 13, 20, and 54.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7696. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Quan-Zhen Wang can be reached on 571-272-3114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/J. T. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Quan-Zhen Wang/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
2629